

November 14, 2016

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS OBSERVE PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

Tuesday, November 15th, 2016



Contact: Media Desk 850-595-6500 x6000
 Public Contact 850-595-6641

Pensacola, Fla. –Tobacco Free Florida in Escambia County and the Escambia Healthy Start Care Coordination are partnering to promote prematurity awareness through a public event. Between 2013 and 2015, 12.8% of babies in Escambia County, Florida were born prematurely, which is greater than most other counties in Florida.

Premature birth increases a baby's risk of death during the first year of life. It is also associated with the possibility of many lifelong health complications such as lung and breathing problems, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and other issues. Smoking during pregnancy is a major contributor to premature birth rates. Between 2012 and 2014, Escambia County, Florida 10% of women smoked during their pregnancies.

The Prematurity Awareness Day event will be open to the public and will offer opportunities for all individuals to learn how they can help prevent premature birth in our community. Participating organizations include the Healthy Start Care Coordination, Tobacco Free Florida in Escambia, Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition, Pathways for Change, and the Community Drug and Alcohol Council (CDAC).

WHAT: Prematurity Awareness Day

WHERE: Florida Department of Health In Escambia County, Rooms 302-303

WHEN: Tuesday, November 15, 2016
 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. CT

###

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.